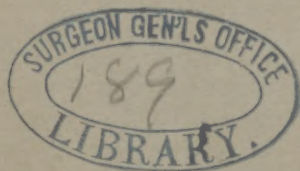


From Mr Leiby
Memoriam (In) Charleston etc

In Memoriam. *(In)*

ELI GEDDINGS.





In Memoriam.

ELI GEDDINGS.

WALKER, EVANS & COGSWELL,
PRINTERS,
3 Broad and 109 East Bay Streets,
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEPARTED THIS LIFE
ON THE 9TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1878,
IN THE EIGHTIETH YEAR OF HIS AGE,
ELI GEDDINGS, M. D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND;

LATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE;

OF SURGERY; OF THE INSTITUTES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE;

OF CLINICAL MEDICINE; AND

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF THE INSTITUTES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA;

ALSO,

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES
OF THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.



A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

OF THE LATE

Professor Eli Geddings, M.D.

PRESENTED TO THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

BY

DOCTORS F. M. ROBERTSON, T. L. OGIER and J. P. CHAZAL,

A COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

In the discharge of the duties assigned them, the members of the Committee feel fully impressed with the importance of the subject, and the difficulties which, in the nature of the case, surround it. To sketch the professional career of one whose life has been prolonged to fourscore years, and who occupied the varied positions in our profession, which fell to the lot of our distinguished and accomplished brother, is no common work.

Notwithstanding the trite and oft-repeated remark, that trivial incidents during boyhood point to the future man, yet few, at the age of fifteen years, can have the slightest conception of the course in life which, in the Providence of God, has been marked out for them; and the events connected with that early period are often forgotten, become mere myths,

or pass into oblivion. In the present case, at least, we find no authentic incidents recorded, indicating, at so early an age, the distinguished future he was destined to fulfil.

Professor ELI GEDDINGS, M. D., the subject of this biographical sketch, was born in what was then termed the "District" of Newberry, South Carolina, since the war between the States, Newberry "County," in the year 1799, where he passed the first fourteen or fifteen years of his life. Within this period of his boyhood are comprised the events of the war of 1812 with Great Britain, and the consequent depressed condition of the agricultural and commercial resources of the entire population. He received his primary education, in which was included the Latin and Greek languages, in the Abbeville Academy, (his family having removed to that County), under the superintendence of Alpheus Baker, a classical teacher of wide-spread and undisputed reputation. To the thorough system of teaching under Mr. Baker, he was indebted, in some measure, for his proficiency in the Greek and Latin languages. In this Academy the late Governor F. W. Pickens, who ran such a brilliant and distinguished career, as a statesman, orator and politician, and Professor Geddings were school-fellows. They left the institution to pursue courses in life that widely diverged from each other. Young Pickens, in consequence of the wealth of his parents, received the most thorough and complete education that could be furnished by the institutions of learning in our country. His associate in the

Abbeville Academy, young Geddings, from pecuniary inability, was thrown upon his own resources, and, as we shall see, at once commenced the study of medicine. They were, however, ultimately brought together as physician and patient, at a time when each, in his own particular sphere, stood conspicuously before the public gaze.

We are indebted to a short biographical sketch of Professor Geddings, in the Charleston Medical Journal and Review, for May, 1857, and to repeated conversations with himself, for the facts connected with his struggles in the prosecution of his early medical education. The statements contained in the sketch alluded to, were, on more than one occasion, verified by Professor Geddings, who consented that a likeness of himself should accompany its publication in the Journal.

"In January, 1818, he commenced the study of Medicine at Abbeville, under Doctors Miller and Arnold, both eminent practitioners of their day. He remained under their tuition until July, 1820, when he was licensed to practice by the examining board in Charleston, composed of a committee from the Medical Society of South Carolina. At the succeeding anniversary of the Society, in accordance with the existing regulations, he was re-examined before that body, and, at the close of the examination, a resolution highly complimentary to him was offered by one of his present colleagues, Professor Dickson, and unanimously adopted by the Society."

At the time Professor Geddings commenced the

practice of Medicine, there were but few medical schools in the United States. Philadelphia was considered the focus, from which medical education was diffused to the far distant portions of our growing country; and the time honoured University of Pennsylvania was, emphatically, the brilliant head-light that threw its rays to the remotest distance. We rejoice that she has had the boldness to be one of the first to carry the standard of medical education still further in advance. May her noble example be soon followed by other institutions!

It was customary, at the period of which we speak, for students to read Medicine for two or three years under some reputable practitioner, and, then, if their circumstances would admit of it, to resort to Philadelphia, attend one course of lectures in the Medical department of the University, return home, and commence practice with a license, but without a diploma. It will be perceived, that the subject of our notice did not enjoy the advantage of even one course of lectures, before he was compelled to apply for an examination for a license under the State law, and at once commence practice. This was not from choice, but *ex necessitate*; for the sum required to make a journey to Philadelphia and return, at that time, was so large, that few who were without means, were willing to run the risk of borrowing the necessary amount. What a contrast with the present facilities for obtaining the degree of M. D. For a mere trifle, yea, for almost nothing, two full courses of lectures are offered to the student, and in some instances, graduation can be effected in an incredibly short time.

“Upon receiving his license, Dr. Geddings commenced the practice of his profession in St. George's Parish, in the County of Colleton, but his health having become impaired, he promptly returned to Abbeville, where he again entered upon the duties of his calling, and in January, 1821, he formed a professional connection with Dr. E. S. Davis. Here he continued in active employment until November, when he went to Philadelphia, and attended the course of lectures during the winter of 1821-22, at the University of Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1822 he returned to his labours as a practitioner of medicine, in that part of Abbeville County known as the ‘Calhoun Settlement.’ He there continued his arduous duties until August, 1824, when, having determined to remove to Charleston, he left Abbeville, and arrived in Charleston in September, 1824, during the prevalence of yellow fever, from which he, in common with other strangers, suffered. We refer to this circumstance, in order to record his oft repeated expression of grateful friendship towards Professor J. E. Holbrook, who was his medical attendant on this occasion, and of whom he always speaks as one among the few men who fostered his early career.”

During his residence in Abbeville, Professor Geddings was a most earnest and untiring practitioner, and it was, doubtless, amid the severe and, in many instances, fatal epidemics, of the worst forms of malarial fevers, which frequently visited this rich cotton region, that his mind was impressed with the import-

ance of a thorough foundation for ultimate success in his profession. He continued his studies, notwithstanding the immense amount of time and labour necessarily expended by a country practitioner, to accomplish comparatively small results. He evidently worked with an eye to a future and more widely extended field; and it is here we trace the dawns of that ambition, which, in after life, urged him on to the accomplishment of greater things. He had already commenced the study of the French language, no doubt in contemplation of a visit to Europe at no distant day.

"A very strong motive among those which induced Professor Geddings to remove to Charleston, was the knowledge that a Medical College had just been organized in his native State, and his earnest desire to obtain his diploma at home. He consequently attended the inauguration of the Medical College of South Carolina, and had the proud satisfaction of receiving, with three others, his degree, at its first commencement in the spring of 1825. During the session he voluntarily discharged the duties of Demonstrator of Anatomy, to which office he was regularly appointed at the termination of the course. In the spring of 1826, Professor Geddings went to Europe for the purpose of attending the hospitals of Paris and London, especially the former. He returned to Charleston in May, 1827, engaged in the practice of medicine, and for one year discharged the duties of Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical College. At the end of this period he resigned the

appointment, and opened a private school of practical Anatomy and Surgery, which was eminently successful."

During the period which intervened between the commencement of his private lectures and instruction in Practical Anatomy and Surgery, and his removal to Baltimore, the amount of labour performed by Professor Geddings was absolutely incredible. While discharging faithfully and thoroughly his obligations as a lecturer, his private hours were devoted to the most rigorous and unremitting study. He had already mastered the French language, and had so far progressed in German as to be able to write elaborate critical reviews of works in that language from eminent German authors, which, together with numerous bibliographical notices from his pen, can be found scattered through the medical periodicals of that day, especially in *The American Journal of Medical Sciences*. We shall allude to this subject again, in connection with the productions of his pen, and merely mention it now to show the magnitude of the self-imposed task, which his love for his profession had thus induced him voluntarily to assume.

Let us look for a moment at the course adopted and carried out in his private school:

First—He acted as Demonstrator of Anatomy to his class and directed in person the different divisions in their dissections, for he had no assistant.

Second—He delivered a full course of lectures on the Institutes and Practice of Medicine. These lectures were carefully prepared, written out in full, and

delivered from the manuscript, emphatically, "*ex cathedra*," seated in a chair, with reading desk in front. In fact, at that period, this was the usual custom in the College. In this course was included Pathology, which was then comparatively a new subject.

Third—He delivered a full and thorough course of Regional, or Surgical Anatomy. This was one of the most valuable courses that he delivered, if comparison is admissible. The dissections were first made in a private room, and the different structures of the region to be considered were carefully dissected out, after which the parts were replaced in their normal positions, and in this condition the subject was introduced into the lecture-room before the class. Those who have had the privilege of following him in these lectures on Surgical Anatomy, will doubtless remember the intense interest with which he invested the subject. The learned Professor, at that time young and bouyant, appeared before his pupils without notes or manuscript, scalpel and forceps in hand; commenced by describing and marking out the particular region under consideration; step by step unfolded the mysteries that lay concealed beneath; described each tissue, layer, and the various structures as he passed from without inward, then traced their relations to each other, finally concluding by a minute description of the nature, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of the different diseases and accidents to which the particular region was liable. In the course of these extemporaneous

demonstrations, he was never at a loss for a word, and authorities rolled from his lips in smooth and unbroken accents. To listen to such a teacher was truly a pleasure and not a task. It was very justly remarked by one of the speakers at the memorial meeting of the Medical Society of South Carolina, "To read, was, with Professor Geddings, to memorize, and to memorize was to engrave upon the brain marks which were never to be obliterated—*'ære perennius.'*"

Fourth—He delivered a full and complete course on Surgery, comprehending every practical point in this important branch, including bandaging, the dressing of wounds, adjusting of fractures and dislocations, and all the operations capital and minor, each of which was illustrated and demonstrated on the subject.

Fifth—He delivered a course of Clinical lectures at the Alms House Hospital, in which the then new subject of physical diagnosis by auscultation, percussion, &c., was for the first time introduced in our city.

Sixth—Three times a week, after the exhausting labours of the day were over, he met a private class in his library, and examined them on the different lectures that had been delivered in the College by the regular professors. These examinations were thorough and complete. Before commencing, he would request to be informed of the particular subject on which each professor had been lecturing, and his examinations were so accurate, that it was difficult to

believe that he had not listened to the lectures himself. He appeared to be fully conversant with the particular views of each professor in relation to his branch.

The different courses of lectures alluded to, were not all delivered on one day, but particular days were allotted to certain portions of the course. On some he lectured three times a week, and on others twice a week. The lectures were delivered in the afternoon and at night, so as not to clash with the regular course in the College.

Professor Geddings was identified with the Medical College of South Carolina from its origin, and with the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, to the day of his death, as he was Emeritus Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine in the latter institution. And as his professional career was so intimately connected, indeed so blended with the history of both these institutions, we offer no apology for introducing a brief sketch of each of them.

The records, together with verbal information, seem to point to the late Professors T. G. Prioleau, and James Ramsay, as having first suggested the organization of a Medical College in the City of Charleston.

The late Dr. Cooper, the President of South Carolina College, a State institution, located in Columbia, had previously made an effort to have the power of conferring the degree of M. D., incorporated in the Act creating the College. Associated with Professors Prioleau and Ramsay, in this effort, were Doctors Samuel Henry Dickson, Henry R. Frost, James

Moultrie, Edmund Ravenel, Stephen Elliot, and others. Some of these gentlemen had previously delivered private lectures to classes of students gathered in their offices. After a fruitless effort to effect an arrangement with the Charleston College, a literary institution still in successful operation, under the care of an able President and learned Professors, by which a Medical School could be engrafted on that institution, these gentlemen made application to the Medical Society of South Carolina. At their earnest solicitation, the Society was finally induced to apply to the Legislature for an amendment to its charter, which would enable them to carry out their cherished object under the auspices of the Society. In the winter of 1822, the amendment to the charter was granted, and immediate steps were taken to organize and commence operations.

A large majority of the Society, whose membership was not confined to the city, were incredulous as to its success, and determined not to bear any portion of the pecuniary responsibility of the enterprise, or to share any of the odium attending a failure. One of the express stipulations, though not in writing, was that the Medical Society would, under no circumstances, incur any pecuniary responsibility whatever, in connection with the undertaking. This was to be borne, alone, by the members of the Faculty individually; the Society, in accordance with the provisions of the amended charter, merely conferring the degree of M. D. upon the candidates recommended by the Faculty. The following Pro-

fessors were elected, and arrangements made to commence operations at once, viz: Samuel Henry Dickson, M. D., Institutes and Practice of Medicine; Thomas G. Prioleau, M. D., Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; James Ramsay, M. D., Surgery; Henry R. Frost, M. D., Therapeutics and Materia Medica; Edmund Ravenel, M. D., Chemistry; and John E. Holbrook, M. D., Anatomy. The late Dr. J. Mott Campbell was selected as the party to fill the chair of Anatomy, but he declined to accept the position, and Dr. Holbrook was duly elected in his place, and may justly be considered the first Professor of Anatomy. The first regular course of lectures was delivered in the winter of 1824-25, in a small wooden one story building, which occupied nearly the present position of the extreme west end of the Roper Hospital. At the termination of the course, in the spring of 1825, there were five candidates for graduation, four were successful and one was rejected. Professor Geddings, as we have stated, was one of the graduates, and had acted as Demonstrator of Anatomy during the term. One of these graduates is still living, Dr. J. P. Garvin, of Augusta, Georgia, who, for many years filled the chair of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the Medical College of Georgia. By diligence and the most untiring zeal, there was a steady increase in the numbers of the classes, and the College soon became popular throughout the South and Southwest, and was acknowledged to rank with the Medical Schools of Philadelphia and New York.

An appropriation of money was made by the Legislature of South Carolina, which, together with an appropriation from the City Council of Charleston, and a donation of land, upon which the College now stands, enabled the Faculty to erect a commodious and handsome edifice. The extensive Museum of the Philosophical Society, at the head of which was the late distinguished Stephen Elliott, L. L. D., one of South Carolina's most gifted sons, was transferred to the Medical College. Other liberal appropriations were made from time to time by the Legislature, which enabled the Faculty to improve the building, increase the Museum, and place the entire establishment in the condition in which the outbreak of the war found it. In all these improvements Professor Geddings took a deep interest.

Up to the period of 1830, the Medical Society, as the nominal trustees of the College, had not interfered with, or attempted to control any of the acts of the Faculty. Constituted, however, as the Medical Society was, and considering the rising popularity of the Professors of the College, and the elevated standing to which the institution had attained, it was not strange, that personal preferences, as well as professional ambition, aspirations and rivalries should have sprung up. Not long after the termination of the course of lectures, in the Spring of 1830, an event occurred which caused an outcrop of the substratum of feeling, to which we have alluded. Professor Ramsey, from ill health, was compelled to resign his position in the Faculty, and thus left the vacant

chair of Surgery a tempting prize to be contended for. Legally, the election was by the Society. It was at this critical juncture that a majority of the Society desired to control. The Faculty felt, and it was so understood, that their connection with the Society, though technically legal, was nominal, and never supposed that an effort would be made to thwart them in their choice to fill a vacancy in their own body. The Faculty unanimously desired the election of Professor Geddings, who, as we have seen, was then lecturing, with great eclat, to large classes in his private school. The result of the election was adverse to Professor Geddings. A warm, and, we regret to say, in some respects, a bitter controversy ensued, which finally resulted in the withdrawal of the entire Faculty, including Dr. John Wagner, who had been elected by the Medical Society in opposition to Professor Geddings. The question of the right of property was thrown into the courts, which decided that, legally, under the amended charter, the College building, erected by the personal exertions and influence of the Faculty, including the Museum, &c., was invested in the Medical Society of South Carolina. The Medical Society proceeded, at once, to fill the chairs thus vacated. Three of the Professors were elected from the Medical Society, and three were professional gentlemen of high standing from the North.

The old Faculty at once applied to the Legislature for a new charter, which was granted, under the name of the "Medical College of the State of South

Carolina." The trustees of the new College consisted of eleven non-medical gentlemen, together with the Faculty. The former were, Nathaniel Heyward, C. J. Colcock, Henry L. Pinckney, Robert J. Turnbull, Samuel Prioleau, Elias Horry, William Drayton, Jacob Ford, Henry A. DeSaussure, Jasper Adams, and Mitchell King. The following medical gentlemen composed the Faculty: Samuel Henry Dickson, M. D., Institutes and Practice of Medicine; Thomas G. Prioleau, M. D., Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; John Wagner, M. D., Surgery; Henry R. Frost, M. D., Therapeutics and Materia Medica; Edmund Ravenel, M. D., Chemistry, and John E. Holbrook, M. D., Anatomy. We will now leave the College for a moment and return to the subject of our biography.

In 1831 Professor Geddings discontinued his private school, for the purpose of accepting the Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Maryland, to which he had been unanimously elected. This was an unlooked-for compliment, and must have been highly appreciated by this learned Professor, especially at this time. That we may know the high estimation in which Professor Geddings was held at this early period of his professional career, we quote the following remarks from an introductory address by Professor G. S. Bedford of New York, the new Professor of Obstetrics in the Queen Street College in Charleston: "In a neighbouring State, famed for the generous and magnanimous character of its citizens, it was deemed expedient to look beyond its

own immediate precincts for a Professor to fill an important chair in the Medical University. After a diligent search for talent and acquirement, the attention of the Board was directed to the City of Charleston! Yes, gentlemen, to an individual, who was born, reared and educated in the State of South Carolina, whose professional studies were prosecuted among you, and whose efforts were first displayed in his own native State, was assigned the honourable appointment of Professor of Anatomy in the University of Maryland. The name of Geddings is familiar to you all. Many of you no doubt have listened with rapture to him, when delineating the human structure, and you can all bear witness to his industry and zeal in behalf of medical science. He was one of your own citizens, taken from among you to fill a chair in an institution, to which he is now adding lustre by his indefatigable exertions." Other offers of a no less flattering character were tendered Professor Geddings, and he was repeatedly urged to accept positions of high distinction and honour, but his affections seemed to cling to his native State. We will briefly mention some of these offers. In 1830 or '31, when Professor Eberle removed to Cincinnati, Professor Geddings, without any previous knowledge of such an intention on the part of the electors, was chosen to the vacant chair of Practice of Medicine in Jefferson Medical College. He was solicited, upon the organization of the New York University under Chancellor Matthews, to take the Professorship of Anatomy. When Professor Drake seceded from the

Medical College of Ohio, and formed a new school, Professor Geddings was offered the chair of Anatomy with a guarantee. Also, in the organization of the University of Louisville, Professor Geddings was solicited by the venerable Caldwell to take a place in the institution, even "with the choice of whatever chair he should desire." These are testimonials that speak in no ordinary terms of commendation, and of which the recipient might well be proud. While they reflect honour upon his native State, they will ever remain as testimonials to his well-earned reputation, as a learned professor and a skilful practitioner of our divine art.

As the professional career of Professor Geddings is also interwoven with the history of the new institution, "the Medical College of the State of South Carolina," in which he was Emeritus Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, and Professor of Clinical Medicine, the duties of which he frequently discharged up to a late period, we will continue our sketch of the history of the College, in points bearing upon the professional biography of our lamented friend.

When we last spoke of the new College, the Professors were without a roof to shelter themselves, or a class. The question had to be met at once promptly and energetically. They purchased, on their own individual responsibility, the "Charleston Theatre," situated at the junction of Broad and New Street. With slight alterations and modifications, it was soon placed in a condition for the reception and accommo-

dation of a class, and operations were commenced in the fall of 1833. At this time a separate Chair of Physiology was created, the subject having been hitherto assigned to the Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Dr. James Moultrie was elected to the chair, which up to the date of his resignation, a short time after the termination of the war, he had filled with marked ability for thirty-four years. The opening session found them with a class of one hundred and five students, and thirty-five graduates at the first commencement. The proportionately large number of graduates was owing to the number of second course students, whose first course had been attended under the old regime. The second year they had a class of one hundred and twenty-seven students with thirty-seven graduates. It was but natural, that the old Faculty, under all the circumstances, should have awakened the sympathies of their friends in the city, and a deep interest among the numerous alumni of the old institution throughout the South and Southwest, who nobly sustained the original founders of their "Alma Mater."

While success, complete and triumphant, crowned their efforts, repeated changes in the Faculty, disappointment and final failure was the result of the effort of the new Professors in the old College. It was finally abandoned.

As we have already mentioned, Professor Geddings accepted the Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Maryland, and removed to Baltimore in 1834, when he commenced the duties of his impor

tant chair, and soon ranked with the leading practitioners of that city. We shall allude under another head of our subject, to his labours in the journalistic and literary department of our profession, during his residence in Baltimore. At present we continue our notice of his connection with the Medical College of the State of South Carolina. As an evidence of the estimation in which our deceased friend was held by the Faculty and Trustees of this institution, in 1837, we find them creating a new Chair "of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence," to which Professor Geddings was unanimously invited. Strongly attached to his native State, and especially to Charleston, he at once decided to accept the invitation, and, resigning his position in the University of Maryland, returned to the scenes of his early professional struggles. He met with a warm welcome, and soon achieved a success, that placed him in the front rank as a teacher and successful practitioner of our art in all its branches, the practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics alike.

We may here state, that in all the heat of the controversy that arose between the Medical Society and the Faculty, Professor Geddings never exhibited the spirit of resentment in the slightest degree. In more than one instance, he has magnanimously returned good for evil, and held out a helping hand to those who had no reason to expect it. However deeply he might feel an injury, at the moment, his heart was incapable of inflicting a deliberate act of retaliation upon the most humble of his fellow men; we may truly say, he

"Carried anger as the flint bears fire,
Who much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again."

Through the kind offices of mutual friends, an arrangement was finally made, by which the Trustees and Faculty of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, became possessed of the old edifice in Queen Street, and were at last installed in their ancient rights under a new and independent charter. The charter of the Medical College of South Carolina expired by its own limitation, and has never been revived. All differences were reconciled, personal good feeling restored, and peace and harmony prevailed. At this happy termination of the controversy, no one rejoiced more sincerely than the subject of this sketch.

In 1841, the College sustained a great loss in the death of Professor Wagner. A favourite pupil of the renowned Sir Astley Cooper, he had sustained the reputation of his great master, and reflected honour upon the institution that had honoured him. To the chair, thus made vacant, Professor Geddings was at once transferred, and the subjects hitherto taught by him were distributed among the other chairs.

In 1849, Professor Dickson accepted an invitation to remove to New York, for the purpose of filling a chair in one of the Medical Colleges of that city. Professor Geddings was immediately transferred to the vacant chair of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, and Dr. John Bellinger was unanimously

elected Professor of Surgery, to fill the post vacated by the transfer of Professor Geddings. Professor Dickson remained only three years in New York, and having expressed a desire to return to Charleston, Professor Bellinger, his former associate in practice, and bosom friend, resigned from the Faculty, in order that arrangements might be made to restore Professor Dickson to his former position. To consummate this arrangement, Professor Geddings cheerfully consented to resume the chair of Surgery, leaving that of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine vacant, that Professor Dickson might be re-instated. The harmony and good feeling which brought about this result, was alike honourable to all the parties concerned. In speaking of the act of Professor Geddings on this occasion, Professor Dickson remarked, in his introductory lecture, alluding to his eminent abilities, that "it was difficult to say what chair he was the best qualified for."

In 1858 Professor Geddings, desiring to curtail his immense labours, for his practice was widely extended in our community, resigned the chair of Surgery, and retired from public teaching. Dr. J. J. Chisolm was elected to fill the vacancy thus occasioned. Not long after this Professor Dickson was a second time invited to the North, and accepted the chair of practice in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. The late Dr. P. C. Gaillard was elected to fill the chair made vacant by the second resignation of Professor Dickson. Soon after the opening of the lectures in the fall, Professor Gaillard's health gave

way, and he was hurried to a premature grave, in the midst of his labours and usefulness, before he had completed one half of his first course of lectures. This melancholy event placed the College in a serious dilemma, and at the earnest solicitation of the friends of Professor Gaillard, and the unanimous request of the Trustees and Faculty, Professor Geddings magnanimously consented to complete Professor Gaillard's course, to relieve the Faculty from its embarrassment, and more especially for the benefit of the family of the late Professor. Comment upon such an act would only dim its lustre. It speaks with a silent eloquence, which language cannot express !

At the termination of this course of lectures, the Trustees and Faculty unanimously requested Professor Geddings to return to the chair of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, which he finally consented to do, to the great joy and satisfaction of troops of friends and admirers. It is unnecessary for us to say with what distinguished ability he continued his labours up to the time of his retirement as a public lecturer and teacher.

The late war put a summary end to the operations of the College. We will now follow the professional career of our deceased friend through this trying ordeal. No one had more at stake than Professor Geddings, and no one felt a deeper interest in the struggle, or looked forward with more anxiety to the result of the contest. His all was on the hazard, and his all was swept away, and, at a time when he

should have retired in affluence and comfort, he was reduced at an advanced age to the necessity of earning a support by his daily practice among patients, who, in most cases, like himself, had been reduced to daily personal struggles for a meagre subsistence. How often have we heard him say, in speaking of the changed circumstances of many of his old patients: "They paid me liberally when in prosperity, and I cannot forsake them in the hour of their adversity."

Although advanced in life at the commencement of hostilities, Professor Geddings did not shrink from the performance of those duties, due from every patriotic citizen to his country. When it became evident that the struggle would demand the entire resources of the South, both in money and men, the organization of our army was commenced on a scale commensurate with the magnitude of the struggle and the issues at stake. At this juncture he was tendered and accepted the appointment of Surgeon in the Confederate army, was at once placed on a board for the examination of the Medical officers of the army, and served until the surrender of Charleston.

There is one sad occurrence connected with the events of the struggle around Charleston, which we must mention. It is one which the entire profession, in common with the numerous personal friends of Professor Geddings, cannot cease to lament. It is the utter destruction of his entire library. By the unremitting labours of his pen, from an early period in his professional career, and the most liberal appropri-

ation of money, Professor Geddings had accumulated one of the most valuable private medical libraries in this country. It was composed of the most choice, rare and valuable publications of ancient and modern times. In fact, on its richly laden shelves could be found representatives of every subject connected with medical literature in all branches, as well as the collateral sciences, in the languages of almost every nation, ancient and modern. Its collection was the result of careful selection under his own eye, during repeated visits to Europe, and, at the breaking out of the war, it was acknowledged to be, as a private medical library, without a rival. It was always open to his less favoured professional friends, and it constituted a rich mine to which we could all freely resort and draw supplies when our own stock failed. But alas! this rich collection, the result of years of toil and care, was destined to share the fate that had ruthlessly swept similar treasures from the face of the earth. As the fall of Charleston became imminent, Professor Geddings had his entire library boxed up and sent to Columbia. It was deposited in the government stores in that city. These were among the first buildings fired by Sherman's army, and Professor Geddings' magnificent library perished in the flames. We are free to acknowledge that we do not attribute the destruction of this valuable collection to design; but it evidently resulted from the fact that it had been stored here in boxes, without any specific information as to the character or value of their contents, and it fell a sacrifice to the ruthless

and unmitigated chances of war. This, however, did not end the misfortunes of our friend. His collection of surgical instruments and apparatus must have amounted, in money value, to a considerable sum. In the progress of the bombardment of our city, the inhabitants were compelled to remove to those sections, the most remote from the range of the enemy's missiles, and Professor Geddings, in common with others, temporarily left his residence in George street, and the first night that he was absent from his premises, some one broke into the room, in which these instruments were kept under lock and key, and stole every article of any value. On his return the next morning, there was not left him even a complete pocket case, so thoroughly had the burglar accomplished his work. Strange to say, no clue to the theft was ever discovered, nor was a single instrument recovered.

All the Professors of the College had survived the war, and soon after the return of those who had been forced, from various causes, to leave their homes in the city, the question of the revival of the lectures came before the Trustees and Faculty. The College building and museum had been very much damaged, not from shell, but from irresponsible and lawless parties, who had drifted into the city with the regular army, and Freedman's Bureau. Suffice it to say on this point, for we do not wish to dwell upon the unpleasant topics associated with this unfortunate period, that with great difficulty arrangements were made by which the institution was placed in a condi-

tion to accommodate a class in time for the lectures in the fall. It is due to our lamented friend to state here that as he could not leave with our army, when the city was evacuated, he tendered his resignation to the War Department, and remained; and it was through his strenuous exertions that further depredations on the College and Museum were prevented. The commander of the Federal troops occupying the City of Charleston, by a special order, placed the building and its contents in his charge, to be ultimately turned over to its rightful owners.

The prospects for the College were at first bright. Numerous letters were received from students making inquiries in relation to the resumption of the lectures, particularly from those who had attended their first course anterior to the breaking out of the war, hoping to be able to attend a second course, and apply for graduation in the ensuing spring. At this time Professor Geddings seemed to be inspired with fresh energy. It was through his influence, some years before, that a "Medical and Surgical Polyclinic" had been organized in connection with the College, and we now have before us a manuscript draft in his own handwriting, of the plan under which it was organized. He recommended, now, a revival of this "Polyclinic," and it was continued until the Roper and City Hospitals were again placed at the disposal of the Faculty of the College. It was mainly through his influence that, what was termed, an "extraordinary Professor" was appointed to each of the regular chairs, who, under proper ar-

rangements, supplemented twice or three times a week, a portion of the regular course. This arrangement enabled the Faculty and Trustees, as chairs became vacant by death or resignation, to fill the vacancy by those who had been tried on each special branch.

Although there was, for two or three years, an encouraging hope that the institution would regain its former standing, yet this hope, from various adverse circumstances, was not realized. But we yet trust that our time-honoured and distinguished "Alma Mater," that has so long stood as "a bright and shining light" in the medical firmament, will revive and again shine forth with the brilliancy of her former glory.

Advancing age, in spite of an iron constitution and indomitable will, commenced to tell upon Professor Geddings, and in 1871 he tendered his resignation of the chair he had so long, so ably, and so acceptably filled. The regret, both in and out of the profession, was wide-spread. After strenuous efforts, arrangements were made by which, on accepting his resignation, he was elected "Emeritus Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine," and a new chair of "Clinical Medicine" was created, to which he was unanimously elected. Under this arrangement he continued to give clinical lectures at the hospitals for two years, at the end of which time he finally retired. As Emeritus Professor, however, at the request of his former colleagues, he gave an occasional clinical lecture at the hospital on some obscure or unusually

interesting case, until within a year of his death. Whenever it was known that he was to give a clinic, the entire class flocked around him, as well as many practitioners, who always delighted to hear him and dwell upon the words of wisdom which fell from his lips at the bedside of the patient. We are reminded, in this connection, of his unusually retentive memory and power of storing away facts and authorities, which has been casually alluded to. This doubtless was the foundation of his great success as a fluent and cogent lecturer. He was never at a loss for either a word or an authority, however deep and intricate the subject might be; language and facts were always at his command. This constituted his power as a clinical lecturer, and led to his remarkable accuracy in the diagnosis of rare and obscure diseases. Was the case new and of unusual occurrence, some facts and observations were at once revived in his mind, which gave a clue by which he was guided, step by step, to a final judgment, in which it was rare for him to make a mistake. He had cultivated to a high degree the faculty, which has been termed, "diagnosis by exclusion," one of the most valuable gifts that can fall to the lot of a practitioner of medicine. It is not strange, then, that Professor Geddings occupied so commanding a position as a skilful practitioner, and enjoyed almost a monopoly of consultation practice. In times of difficulty and in cases of grave responsibility, all sought his counsel, for all, old and young, had unbounded confidence in his abilities, and the most implicit reliance upon his high-

toned honour, and rigid conformity to the code of medical ethics; not only the written code, but that unwritten code which is indelibly engraved upon the soul of every high-toned gentleman. He could not stoop to a mean action. This was conspicuous in his intercourse with his professional brethren of every grade and age, so remarkably brought out in the remarks of every speaker who addressed the memorial meeting, called by the Medical Society of South Carolina, to pay a deserved tribute to his memory. The younger members of the profession could look to him with the confidence which a child places in a father, and feel sure that it gave him infinitely more pleasure to instruct and lead the inexperienced in the way of truth, than to indulge in the ignoble gratification of seeing him humiliated by having his errors blazoned abroad, or stealthily wounded through misplaced confidence. This trait always drew the young around him, and caused the older members of the profession to seek his advice, amid difficulties of the most grave and trying character. He had an unquenchable love for the dignity and honour of his profession, and grieved to witness any act that was calculated to lower the standard of its ethics, or tarnish with one blot the brightness of its splendor.

We will now bring our sketch of the professional career of our distinguished confrere and friend to a close, by a few words in relation to the productions of his pen. Brief references have been made to his contributions to the medical periodicals of his day. Soon after he commenced his labours as a reviewer,

it was evident that his name added greatly to the reputation of the periodical that could secure him as a collaborator, hence all were anxious to place him upon their lists. His early papers were published in the "American Journal of Medical Sciences," edited by the learned Isaac Hays, M. D., and published by the house of the Leas of Philadelphia. Through the kindness of Dr. John Forrest, Jr., we are enabled to give a list of nine elaborate reviews contributed to that journal from 1830 to 1838. The works reviewed were of the first order of merit, and in the Latin, German, French and English languages. He gives also a list of thirty-six bibliographical notices in the same journal, from 1830 to 1837. Many of these are by no means short, but generally covering more than a page, and sometimes three or four pages. These works are in the Latin, German, French, Spanish and English languages. Besides these, we have a list furnished of miscellaneous contributions to the same journal, eight articles, from 1830 to 1847. The carefully collected list, by Dr. Forrest, accompanies this report, for which we tender him our sincere thanks. Professor Geddings has contributed to other journals, including the different periodicals that have been published in Charleston, but we have not been able to procure a list of articles or subjects. After his removal to Baltimore, he became the editor of a journal himself, some account of which we have been able to give.

The "Baltimore Medical Journal," with him as the sole editor, but assisted by an able list of co-labourers,

was commenced in 1833. Besides his productions as editor, every number contained elaborate and well prepared articles on some of the most important subjects pertaining to the science of medicine. Yielding to a call for a monthly, instead of a quarterly journal, its form was changed, and it was issued in 1835 as a "monthly," under the title of the "North American Archives of Medical and Surgical Science." To this he contributed more editorials and other important essays than he had done to the former. What with the duties of his chair in the University, the responsibility of the journal, clinical instruction in the Alms-house and Infirmary, and private practice, he must have performed an incredible amount of mental and physical labour during his residence in that city, and we have been informed that his health had become seriously impaired before his return to Charleston. Professor Geddings was a liberal contributor to a work under the editorial supervision of Isaac Hays, M. D., published by the house of Carey, Lea and Blanchard, entitled the "American Encyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery; a digest of Medical Literature." The first volume was issued in 1834, and the second, and, unfortunately the last, in 1836, when, from various causes, it was suspended. Professor Geddings contributed largely to its pages. One article alone, on the subject of arteries, covered one hundred and forty-six closely written pages in double columns.

At the twenty-first annual meeting of the American Medical Association, held in the city of Washington,

May 3d to 6th, 1870, the Committee on Medical Education appointed for the ensuing year, was composed of the following members :

E. Geddings, M. D., South Carolina, *Chairman*.

J. M. Forrest, M. D., Missouri.

Egbert B. Johnson, M. D., Alabama.

W. O. Ayers, M. D., California.

The report was presented to the annual meeting of the Association, held in the city of San Francisco, May, 1871. We do not hesitate to say, that it is a model document, in which the wide and extended subject of medical education is treated of in an exhaustive and masterly style. From circumstances explained by Professor Geddings in a note to the President of the Association, it was impossible to obtain the co-operation of the other members of the committee, and the report appears as the work of the chairman alone. It was his last written deliverance, and though the recommendations proposed were at first coldly received, yet he lived to see two of our leading Colleges adopt a three years course, with most of the improvements suggested. To show how earnestly he was interested in the great subject of medical education, and how unselfish he was in the motives which urged him in putting forth the report, we make a short quotation from his concluding remarks. "The committee must now bring their labours to a close, not however without a feeling of regret at the imperfect manner in which they have performed the duty assigned them. The sub-

ject is one of great difficulty, and the best they could do in discussing it, was to offer the result of their honest convictions. In what they have proposed, they have not permitted themselves to cherish any sanguine expectations of success. The evils complained of are too deep-rooted, and have too long existed, to be readily given up or abandoned. Nothing short of the combined action of the whole profession, brought to bear upon the defects and abuses complained of, can eradicate them. They are aware that the suggestions made, will, by a certain class, be denounced as the 'effete offcasts of European systems,' not at all adapted to the new-fangled ideas of American progress. This subterfuge, your reporter (who is alone responsible for the substance and sentiments of this report), would reply, that he has been a medical teacher in medical colleges for nearly half a century, and is, therefore, prepared to express a conscientious opinion of their delinquencies and of their source. In addition to this, he has had every opportunity, more than once, of visiting the leading universities of Europe, and participating in the valuable instructions of some of them; so that he may be considered in some degree competent to express an opinion in regard to the European and the so-called American system. In conclusion, he would say, that what he has said, he has said honestly and conscientiously, that he has reached a period of life when he is admonished to retire from the responsible duty of medical teaching; that the preceding remarks, although having the semblance of harshness, are the

conscientious dictates of one who has laboured long and faithfully for medical science, who, now in the evening of his days, has nothing to ask, but who would esteem above all other rewards for the honest labour of life, the silent approbation of his professional brethren in the United States."

We sincerely regret that our information in relation to the productions of his pen, is so unsatisfactory and incomplete. This, however, is owing to the fact that they are so widely scattered over years of contributions to various journals. All his written lectures, as well as any other manuscripts that he may have had on hand previous to the war, must have been destroyed by himself, or burnt with his library, as no trace of them can be found.

We, in common with the entire profession, have often lamented that Professor Geddings had not embodied his rich experience in the Practice of Medicine and Surgery (in both of which he stood pre-eminent), in systematic works, which would have been enduring monuments to his reputation. That he was in all respects fully qualified for the execution of two such works, no one can doubt, when made aware of the numerous well written, and carefully elaborated papers from his pen, to be found scattered through the medical periodicals of our country, commencing with his pupilage and extending to a short period before his death. The embodiment of his extensive learning and experience in these two branches alone, in a permanent form, would have been a priceless legacy to our profession, and a rich boon to the

cause of suffering humanity. We consider the loss of his experience in those diseases peculiar to the South and Southwest, a great misfortune. No man in the wide domain of the medical profession, had more thoroughly studied the class of diseases arising from the influence of malaria, than Professor Geddings. Assailed in his own person, on the very threshold of his professional career, with the much dreaded disease, yellow fever; and subject through life to the baleful influences of malaria in his own system; with an uninterrupted practice for over half a century in those peculiar forms of diseases, who was so well fitted to leave a record worthy of this important subject, as Professor Geddings?

We are informed that previous to the late war, he had so far completed a work on the Practice of Medicine, as to have had the title page set up in the renowned publishing house of H. C. Lea, of Philadelphia, contemplating no doubt its speedy publication. The further prosecution of the work was interrupted by the stirring events of 1860 to 1865, but, after the termination of hostilities, he received a letter from Mr. Lea, telling him that the form of the title page, etc., had never been taken down, and still remained awaiting the continuance of the work, and urged him to send on the manuscript at once. The manuscript of this work was preserved when he destroyed his lectures as stated, and was carefully boxed up, and sent to Columbia with his library, where it shared the fate of this valuable collection.

Professor Geddings had an intense aversion to be-

ing thrust obtrusively before the public, and whatever has been left on record from his pen is eminently practical and useful, and not intended to elicit popular applause. It was a sad thought, as we stood beside the casket that enclosed his manly form, and gazed upon his finely proportioned and noble head, now cold in death's embrace, that the toil and wide experience of that once active brain, had passed away leaving scarcely a trace behind, save in the memories of those who had enjoyed the benefit of his instruction as a lecturer, or in consultation with him at the bedside of the suffering patient. We shall ever lament that our libraries have no works from his pen, to be placed alongside of the productions of the great masters of his day and generation.

PROFESSOR ELI GEDDINGS.

THE TRIBUTE OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY TO HIS MEMORY.

ADDRESSES OF MESSRS PARKER, ROBERTSON, OGIER, MICHEL, CARRERE,
KINLOCH, BRODIE, PORCHER, BUIST AND WRAGG.

A special meeting of the Medical Society of South Carolina was held in the lecture-room of the Medical College, in Charleston, S. C., at noon, on Tuesday, October 22, 1878, for the purpose of paying a suitable tribute of respect to the memory of their late fellow member, Professor ELI GEDDINGS. The meeting was largely attended by the members of the Society, the members of the medical profession generally, and by the students of the College.

Dr. F. L. Parker, the President of the Society, presided over the meeting, and, after stating briefly its object, delivered a glowing eulogy upon the deceased, as follows:

REMARKS OF PROF. F. L. PARKER, M. D.

Gentlemen of the Medical Society of South Carolina:
It is my sad duty to communicate to the Society that death has again invaded our ranks, and has deprived

us of one of our oldest, and our "most distinguished member."

One, whom we all loved and delighted to honour; one, whose profound interest in all that related to this Society, whether of a scientific or a social character, we have so often realized; and one, whose manly form, intellectual face and cultivated tastes have been so long familiar to us as a landmark in the medical profession—never to be forgotten—is no more.

I have convened the Society in order to announce officially, to the members, the death of Professor Eli Geddings, M. D. He died at his residence in George street, in this city, on the evening of October 9th, at the advanced age of nearly eighty years, full of honours and ripe for the sickle.

It is a melancholy satisfaction for us to know and to record the fact, that his illness was a short one, that his death was comparatively painless; and that God, in His mercy, shielded and protected him in his last moments, who had so often soothed with tenderness and alleviated with skill the pangs and sufferings of so many of his fellow mortals on their death-beds.

As the strong and massive oak, peculiar to our own forests, resisting for years the rude blasts of winter and many storms, sometimes finally yields and falls before the gentle winds of autumn, so he, in the pride and strength of a powerful constitution, after resisting "all the ills that flesh is heir to," for eighty years, finally yielded up his useful and distinguished life in the evening of a mild October's day, almost without pain, and without a murmur.

We have borne his remains to their last resting-place in Magnolia, as became pupils who honour their "great master."

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

We are now assembled, gentlemen, to institute the proceedings usual on such occasions, which I feel will be entered into, in this instance, with emotions of peculiar interest, solemnity and respect.

We are here to express our appreciation of the character and attainments of him who for over sixty years has advanced and elevated our calling, to record our obligations to him as our preceptor and teacher, and our love for him as a friend.

For all of us acknowledge his pre-eminent talents and cheerfully accord to him the just and enviable title of having been for years "the recognized head of the profession; nearly all of us are proud of being his pupils, and are grateful for his wise instructions; and there is scarcely one of us who has not, at one time or another, sought his counsels in professional emergencies, or who has not received at his hands some manifestation of his friendship and regard.

As a further evidence of our respect for his memory, I have called this meeting in the halls of the Medical College, the scene of his early labours and subsequent triumphs in the arena of the lecture-room and on the operating table. I have also invited the profession generally, and the medical students of the class of 1878, to unite with us on this occasion—

for he belonged to the whole profession—and I feel that in so doing I have your hearty concurrence.

Here I may be permitted to remark that this class is the only one which has assembled at this institution to which he has not lectured either officially or by special invitation, from 1824 to 1878, a period of fifty-four years, except a short period when absent at the medical school in Baltimore.

Others will refer to his large acquirements in every branch of medicine, to his attainments in the modern languages and in general literature, outside the ordinary fields of professional studies, and to his noble, generous impulses. Of his charities and gratuitous services in every class of society during a long life in which he pursued his arduous professional duties, in storm, in sunshine and in rain, 'tis not for us to speak. These are the works of the good physician, these are recorded in the hearts of his patients and in Heaven.

“ Far may we search before we find
A heart so manly and so kind ;
But not around his honoured urn
Shall friends alone and kindred mourn ;
The thousand eyes his care had dried,
Pour at his name a bitter tide,
And frequent falls the grateful dew
For benefits the world ne'er knew.”

The meeting is now ready for the object which has brought us together.

PROF. F. M. ROBERTSON, M. D.,

Then delivered the following address, and concluded by offering the resolutions which are appended. Dr. Robertson spoke as follows :

Mr. President and Members of the Medical Society of South Carolina: The sad occurrence which has brought us together to-day is one that swells the bosoms of us all with the most solemn and tender emotions. One has been removed from our midst who, for many years, has occupied the foremost place in the front rank of our profession—one whose talents, learning and skill in every branch of the healing art, have elicited the homage, admiration and respect of us all.

Professor Eli Geddings, M. D., the Gamaliel of our profession, in the eightieth year of his age, has been removed, by the hand of death, from the cares, toils and anxieties of a long, distinguished and eventful professional career. It was my good fortune to have enjoyed an intimate professional intercourse with him for half a century, and I can testify to the herculean labours of that career.

With the exception of a few of the earliest years of his professional life, and a short period spent in the City of Baltimore, Charleston has been the field of his labours. From him we have all, with scarcely an exception, been ever eager to draw wise counsels in difficult and obscure cases, as a consulting physician ;

and at his feet, in the lecture-room, we have listened with profound attention to his teachings from the Professorial Chair. It becomes us, then, as we cast a memorial chaplet upon his grave, to speak of him in terms, free from fulsome flattery, but full of admiration for his transcendent abilities, commendation for the zeal and energy manifested in the prosecution of the science of medicine in all its branches, and our unbounded applause for him as an able, accomplished, and, I had almost said, peerless teacher in the lecture-room and at the bedside of the patient. To have attained to this eminence, in spite of the early trials and difficulties with which he was environed, shows a mental power and genius of no ordinary stamp.

To present a proper and faithful biographical sketch of our deceased brother, would require a more extended notice than the present occasion will admit of; and we trust that a committee will be appointed by the Society to prepare a biographical sketch of the professional life of the deceased. This is not only due to his world-wide reputation, but it will be expected and looked for by the hundreds, yea thousands of pupils that have enjoyed his faithful and able instruction, as well as the entire profession. Professor Geddings truly died in harness, for he attended a meeting of this Society, at the regular monthly meeting previous to the last, and on that occasion, entered with manifest earnestness into the discussion of yellow fever, which was then before the Society; and, even, within a few days before his death, he attended to professional consultations with patients in his library.

The sad reverses which overtook us all, at the termination of the late war between the States, fell upon our friend and brother with a crushing force which could be illy borne at his advanced age. The fruits of years of toilsome practice, were swept away in a moment before his eyes, and he felt that the buoyancy of youth and the vigor of manhood, with which a few years would have enabled him to regain all that had been lost, were gone forever. He keenly realized the declaration of the sacred writer, that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away;" and he often with deep emotion expressed a desire to depart and be at rest.

With these brief remarks, Mr. President, I beg leave to offer the following resolutions for the consideration of the Society :

1. *Resolved*, That we feel deeply the void which has been left in the ranks of our Society by the death of Professor Eli Geddings, M. D.

2. *Resolved*, That in the death of Professor Geddings the medical profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments and most learned and distinguished members, and the citizens of Charleston an accomplished, skilful, kind and sympathizing physician, whose time and talents were ever ready at the call of the suffering and afflicted.

3. *Resolved*, That to the members of his family we tender our most heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolence, in this sad hour of their affliction.

4. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to prepare a biographical sketch of the professional career of Professor Geddings, to be submitted to the Society at a future meeting.

5. *Resolved*, That a copy of the above minute and resolutions be signed by the President and Secretary and sent to the family of the deceased.

6. *Resolved*, That a blank page be set apart in the records of the Society, on which the name and date of the death of Professor Geddings shall be inscribed.

These resolutions were seconded by Dr. T. L. Ogier in the following remarks :

ADDRESS OF DR. T. L. OGIER.

Gentlemen of the Medical Society : It is no ordinary occasion which calls us together to-day. The oldest member of the Society, one who has been engaged in the arduous and laborious duties of our profession for more than half a century, has passed away. A few of us have had the privilege of listening to his instructive lectures in the early part of his career. Many of us were not then born, but the few of us who were his pupils before his connection with the Medical College, when he lectured and dissected in the old building in Queen street, will always remember his beautiful illustrations of the then new discoveries and doctrines of the great Bichat and Broussais, and also his dissections and demonstrations of surgical anatomy. He had the most devoted love for his pro-

fession and the faculty of imparting his enthusiasm to his students, and some of us can date their first love for their profession to these forcible and scientific expositions of its doctrines. From this early date to the time of his death (a period of about fifty-five years) he was engaged in the active duties of his profession, and until the last few years lecturing on medicine and surgery.

But it is impossible to do justice to his various scientific attainments in these remarks. I only name them to show that a truly great man in the profession has rested from his labours and gone to meet his God. May he receive that reward, more than all earthly honours to be desired, of "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." In the commencement of his public career I had the honour of being his pupil, and in his long professional life his companion and friend. In losing him, the brightest light of our profession is extinguished. I have lost the honoured preceptor of my youth, and the dear friend and companion of maturer years. I leave the details of his great character to be made by others more competent.

The following remarks were then made by

PROF. MIDDLETON MICHEL, M. D.

Mr. President: The mournful occurrence which convenes us together admonishes us that death has come again into our midst to claim his due, though

he deprives us on this occasion of all that was strong and useful and worthy of professional emulation. Our distinguished Geddings has passed away ; he has gone from us “ into the far eternal silence of unreturning time.” With his professional brethren, to all of whom so well known, he will yet live long in their memories, since his name must ever be found indelictably inscribed upon the rolls of honourable renown. With a frame as tenacious and vigorous as the intellect was strong and brilliant which animated it, he was permitted to extend his remarkable career of usefulness to nearly fourscore years.

A classical education, an enthusiastic and undivided devotion to the science of his adoption, the self-acquisition of several of the modern languages, con-sorted with that colossal memory, always the conspicuous allotment of superior intellects, must have early predicted the eminent rank he was destined to attain ; while a sagacious appreciation even in those early days of the only true and philosophical basis upon which scientific medicine and surgery rest— anatomy, physiology and pathology—to which he was entirely devoted for years, gave to his opinions that sway of almost oracular authority, and made them as precise and incisive in their characters as they were imposing in the point or condensation of their delivery.

Added to genius in his calling, the deceased exhibited those physical and mental characteristics which mark surety of success—self-reliance, indomitable perseverance, obstinate resistance of discouragement.

ment, which were all expressed in the intellectual eye, the compressed lips, the prominent chin and aquiline nose,

“The eagle’s beak between the eyes,
That never knew a conqueror.”

It is the “will to do” and determination to succeed that has wrought everything really useful and conducive to solid fame.

The early history of Professor Geddings, to which we have heard himself allude with a feeling akin to pride, is but another instance of pre-eminence sinking its roots in deep obscurity. Born in Newberry, his youth was spent in farming, and he has been heard to say that he once drove a wagon to Charleston laden with cotton, and negotiated its sale in this city.

Those who contemplate with interest the sublime possibilities of genius, and love the memory of our friend as I do, may still see near Chappel’s Depot, in the mound, and hearthstone, and walls that remain, the vestiges of that little monument of humble life where our colleague first drew breath; and they may pause at the lesson inculcated, and meditate upon the full fruition of success that waits upon honesty of purpose and inflexible resolve.

This remarkable place will ever be the boast of Newberry as the point of historic record and pride to our profession. Nature seems to have commemorated the event, and to have perpetuated the remembrance of all the solid worth and life-long usefulness which was to emanate from this unpretending spot, in eight

white oaks standing near by, which, a friend tells me, are the largest he has ever seen, interlocking their immense limbs, sections through whose trunks would reveal concentric records of more than a hundred years.

Removing to Abbeville, he here received his classical education at Baker's school, and numbered among his early associates and intimate friends engaged in these initiatory studies the late Governor Pickens. He subsequently read medicine in the office of Drs. Miller and Arnold, of Abbeville, about the years 1819-1820, attending lectures in the Medical College of this City, where he soon was recognized as foremost among his classmates, and was the first, I believe, who presented for graduation, his medical thesis being upon the circulation of the blood, which was ordered to be published, and is in print in the Carolina Journal of Medicine and Science, then published in our city.

But we cannot pursue our inquiry now, in accompanying him through his professional advancement, since the simple enumeration of his surgical performances, the recital of his literary works as founder and editor of the "North American Archives," a commentary upon his academic prelections in the various professional chairs he has filled, and an attempt to portray that elocutionary readiness which was ever at command, would trespass far beyond the time I have allotted to these remarks.

The independent self-reliance which marked his course through life seems to have accompanied him

to its close ; reluctant to call for aid *but* upon himself, he was not willing to encroach upon his colleagues, even so far as to apprise them of his illness, for he knew how ready they would have been to flock around him in their ministrations of help and comfort ; but retiring to suffer *incognito*, like a monarch from our midst, he lays his sceptre down and wraps his mantle about him to be at rest, reminding us of the beautiful lines of the poetess :

“Life we have been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather ;
'Tis hard to part where friends are dear,
Perhaps t'will cost a sigh, a tear ;
Then steal away, give little warning,
Choice thine own time, say not good night,
But in some bright clime bid me good morning.”

Professor Michel, M. D., was followed, in the following remarks, by

DR. M. E. CARRERE.

Mr. President and Members of the Medical Profession :
This meeting has been convened for no common or ordinary purpose, but pregnant with solemnity and deep solicitude. We have assembled here as a band of brothers in social conclave, in behalf of the departed worth, to give impulse and expression to our feelings. A light has gone out in our midst. A brilliant star has been extinguished. The harbinger of death came, and, with his sickle, reaped from the midst of us, talent, virtue and benevolence. Dr. Ged-

dings was a man of no ordinary stamp, possessing a mind of high culture and refinement, and when in the meridian of his professional career he ran parallel and vied with the great lights of Europe and America. Few were his equal, none his superior. In his practice he scrupulously observed all the cardinal points of etiquette, and was a strong adherent to the Code of Ethics, and, when engaged professionally with his brother practitioner, always exhibited fraternal liberality towards him. Dr. Geddings was a man highly endowed with clinical knowledge, and therefore generally formed a correct diagnosis of such cases brought under his supervision and treatment. This made him very successful in practice.

In surgery he wielded the scapel with Æsculapian skill, his motto on the face of which was, "I wound to heal." This point he generally carried out to the letter with triumphant success. Dr. Geddings was a friend to the widow and orphan, and when fortune smiled on him rendered pecuniary aid to the poor, coupled with his professional services, and when suffering humanity was presented to his view he made *nulla distinctione* between the rich and the poor, but gave his professional services alike to both. My friends, Dr. Eli Geddings is not *dead* but still *liveth*; he *will never die*, but *live embalmed in memory*, in the hearts of his medical brethren, and in the hearts of scientific practitioners and surgeons. He, like Enoch, is translated from earth to the realms of eternal bliss, a shining diadem in the coronet of just men made perfect. These very few remarks, my friends, are but

a faint outline of the great surgeon. They are the expression of every heart on this occasion.

The following remarks were then made by

PROF. R. A. KINLOCH, M. D.

Mr. President: I have listened with infinite satisfaction to the worthy tributes of respect and admiration which have been so happily presented by my seniors in the profession. I, sir, must ever feel gratified when I listen to a tribute to true worth. And if ever there was an occasion when a subject was worthy of the remarks made, that occasion I now recognize. It may be considered superfluous for me to add anything to what has been said, but I would be doing violence to my nature, and to the feelings of my heart, were I not to offer my mite in testimony of the high appreciation in which our deceased brother was held.

It has been deemed, by so called "practical men," a useless task to eulogise the dead. I confess to that kind of sentiment, however, which clings to the privilege of perpetuating the memory of departed friends, of recounting and holding up of their virtues, of trying so to associate myself with the memory of their good deeds as to profit by their example. It would be farthest from my intent to overdraw a picture of their greatness, or to hold up for admiration virtues which had no existence. In all that I would say of the dead, as of the living, my disposition

and my effort would be to speak clearly and truthfully.

In referring to the character of our departed friend, there is to me a sweet pleasure in its just and truthful estimate. Dr. Eli Geddings is no more! He is removed from the petty jealousies, the unworthy suspicions and the unjust criminations that come to most of us during our period of attrition with the world. His worst enemy will find it difficult to detract from his sterling qualities, to disparage his good deeds, or to obscure the effulgence of his varied talents. A great man, a true man, a useful citizen, a skilled and good physician is no more! Ours the loss; his, I trust, the gain! His life was in many respects a struggle; it was checkered with good and evil fortune, and it can scarcely be said to have reached, in all respects, its merited reward. Its most characteristic feature, perhaps, was the triumph of professional effort, unless we except its wide usefulness. Upon this latter feature I ought scarcely to comment. Its proper recognition is with the people, among whom he lived out his more than "threescore years and ten." And yet, my friends, our streets and public places are not clad in mourning; we hear no booming of cannon, no tolling of bells, no gathering of the masses, no pulpit orations, no fulminations of eloquence from the halls of legislation or the chambers of justice, no provision for his loved ones. With the death of a successful warrior, a second-rate statesman, or a conspicuous politician, arrangements for these things would be ample.

And yet who amongst us would desire to have upon this occasion a different exhibition of feeling? I answer for our departed brother, that he would rather have it as it is. He lived, in spite of misfortunes, and independent of public applause, cheered and elevated by his zeal in a noble work; he died with the full consciousness of a duty performed to his fellow men, and to his loved profession. To-day, in the mansions of the rich and the humble dwellings of the poor, his memory is warmly cherished, and his name thrice blessed. For time to come the mention of his good deeds, and the recollection of his kindly sympathy, will be a potent influence with the family circle. In many a nursery there is yet to drop a mother's silent tear at the reality of his absence; as in many a chamber, during the profundity of night, there has, heretofore, gone forth a wife's most grateful prayer for his eternal welfare. Better this than the pageant train, the shouts of the multitude, the triumphal arch, or the regal tomb.

But it would seem more pertinent to the occasion of our assembling here to-day to speak of our departed brother as he lived in his relation with the profession. He has been the physician of note in this section for nearly half a century, and, during most of this time, the recognized head of the profession. In the earlier and middle portions of his career he had to cope with more than one colleague of great professional ability, and possessing a wider influence for promotion. With these he early held his own, and when he had reached the fullness of his development

he stood avowedly "the noblest Roman of them all." The impress of his talent and his professional devotion has been fixed upon Southern medicine. Earning a reputation first as a lecturer upon anatomy and several of the cognate branches of medicine, he added to this by his ability as a writer, and in due time he achieved success as a practitioner of medicine and surgery. His strength consisted in the excellency of his attainments in the several departments of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. He eschewed specialism, for with us it was then almost synonymous with charlatanry. In his efforts as a lecturer and teacher it was a matter simply of opinion whether he succeeded best with medicine or surgery. His erudition in medical literature was unsurpassed in this country, and his practical acumen was such as to cause him to be constantly selected for consultation.

This wide success was not owing altogether to the force of intellect or natural genius. Most of it came of arduous toil and indomitable will. In some respects his mind and temperament were not well adapted to his calling. While the memory was remarkable, the logical element was not of the first order, and the temperament was too actively nervous. The more surprising then, and the more creditable his success. He certainly was not born a surgeon. Years ago he remarked to me that he was never constituted for the practice of surgery, but that he had followed it as a necessity. And yet during the earlier part of his career how wonderful were his achievements as a surgical teacher and operator. He did, however, pos-

sess certain great elements for success in surgery, though he lacked others. He had the quick discerning eye, the courage and the will that bore him triumphantly on in many a desperate struggle. While the hand trembled, the eye flashed ; and whether the scalpel or the amputating knife, it was urged home and did successful work.

In his intercourse with his professional brethren of all ages and standing, Dr. Geddings was ever courteous, and kind, and fair. To the youngest of them he was unassuming, social, and friendly, never obtrusive with his superior knowledge, but always willing to afford the benefit of his wise counsel. In all ethical relations he was consistent and true. Possessing more of the *fortiter in re* than the *suaviter in modo*, he was not constituted for securing friendships, yet he made but few enemies in the profession, while he commanded the respect and esteem of all who *learned* to know him.

It is not the least pleasing portion of my duty here, to confess my individual obligations to him in his capacity as teacher, counsellor and friend. It is easy to call to mind important facts and principles I first obtained at his lips. The influence of the professional enthusiasm which he so constantly exhibited, has often worked for my good. The recollection of his struggles and his triumphs over serious difficulties has, in time of need, been a most effective stimulus.

He is gone ! I can yield to none of you, my friends, in the sad regret felt at his loss. I trust that God will raise up some one of you to fill his place. While

but few of us can ever hope to reach the excellence of his greatness, I may indulge the fervent hope that, when our work is done, we will pass away with the consciousness of having tried, in our time, as he did, to elevate our noble calling, and to leave behind the record of a useful life.

Dr. R. L. Brodie then made the following address :

REMARKS OF DR. BRODIE.

Mr. President : Seven years ago just such a gathering of the medical profession of Charleston assembled to do homage to deceased greatness and goodness, when Dr. John Edwards Holbrook died. The grand old teacher and author had laid down his scalpel and pen, and we realized that a great scientific light had gone out. To-day we meet around the new-made grave of his friend and compeer to give expression to our grief that we shall see his face no more. Dr. Eli Geddings rests from his labours.

This was a stalwart traveller on life's highway, who had succored many on the journey ; but as the shadows of evening lengthened on his pathway, he was so weary with the toil of the road, that he lay down to an everlasting repose. This was a busy searcher after truth, who, for more than half a century, had sought to evolve, by the light of a great science, the mysteries of " Life and the Resurrection of Life ; " but at last he paused for a moment on the threshold of the unknown, and then passed within

the portal into the full blaze of the Beautiful and the True. Ours be the loss, his the gain ; ours the unrest, his the rest. To many of us Dr. Geddings was known for years as the able, but stern, unapproachable teacher. He was the Gamaliel at whose feet we sat and learned. Between the professor's chair and the student's bench there was, in that day, a distance well defined and well observed. We listened and wondered at the versatility and genius which would one day demonstrate the minute anatomy of the eye, on another would extemporize on meningitis, and on a third would extirpate the upper maxillary bone. More than mortal he seemed to our gaze. But time and distance had left their traces upon both of us, and we were again brought into new relations with each other. During a professional attendance on a beautiful boy, in whom I was much interested, I felt the need of counsel, and sought it of our deceased friend. It was evident that the patient was fast passing beyond the reach of human aid. When we had retired for consultation he laid his hand upon my shoulder, and with a voice choked with emotion, he said : " I wish I could help you ; I know just how you feel over this case." It was a new revelation of the man, unexpected and startling. 'Twas " the touch of nature that makes the world akin." The sympathy of a moment dispelled the illusion of years, and a great heart glorified a great intellect.

Years later Dr. Geddings was my confrere as a member of the Board of Health. An earnest desire for the public weal, and a devotion to the interests of

those, to so many of whom, he stood in the relation of medical attendant, always characterized him. But the impossibility of accomplishing any good while occupying a mere advisory position, and the utter loathing which possessed his honest soul at the spectacle of abuse of trust and power in others, led to his retirement to private life.

I have dwelt thus, Mr. President, upon the moral qualities of the deceased rather than upon his intellectual traits. We know that popular applause is seldom the lot of the physician. The voice of the multitude is never heard in the sick chamber, or it becomes a whisper in the presence of suffering and death. But it is in the sacred confines of home that the conscientious physician finds his greatness and reward. If "to live in hearts we leave behind is not to die," surely our deceased friend erected for himself many a temple in which "his memory now lies entombed, and many a warm tear will refresh and embalm it" forever.

"Rest thee then softly in thy narrow dwelling
Thou noble heart,
And tho' our bosoms may with grief be swelling,
Let no tear start,
It were in vain, for Time had long been knelling
Great one, depart."

We lay this simple tribute on his tomb. Those who knew him better may do more; none who honoured him as much can do less.

PROF. F. PEYRE PORCHER, M. D.,

Followed Dr. Brodie with the following remarks:
Dr. Porcher said:

We would esteem it a privilege, Mr. President, if permitted before this Society to pay a tribute, however feeble and inadequate it may be, to the member who has recently passed from our midst, laden with years, crowned with honours, and mourned by an entire city. We doubt much if before, in the history of Charleston, a man has left our ranks with regard to whom there was more unanimity in the opinion of his worth, talents, industry, accomplishments, and capacity. Endowed with a very high order of mind, ambitious from his youth of acquiring knowledge, bold, enterprising, and self-reliant by disposition, and desirous of fitting himself for the attainment of the highest honours of his profession, he has perfectly succeeded. His record has indeed been a brilliant one, for he has identified his name with the principal achievements of the profession of his native State in every department of its practice for the past fifty years. There was nothing in surgery, in medicine, in obstetrics that the best of his compeers here and elsewhere could do that he did not perform equally well; and it is not saying too much to affirm that in every gathering of our profession in this State he was the recognized leader, and every one willingly invited his counsel and listened with deference to his opin-

ions. Latterly, and for many years past, he has been literally, both in years and fame, the Nestor of the profession.

Dr. Geddings never ceased from study to the latest days of his life. Even after the war he supplied himself with most of the new publications, and his collection of books, ancient and modern, was always by far the rarest and the richest in this city. He was a strict constructionist with regard to the necessity of maintaining a high standard of medical education. His elaborate paper presented to the American Medical Association is a proof of this.

It is needless to refer to the moral and ethical traits of his character ; for in his professional bearing and conduct, and in all the relations of life, he kept his honour stainless. He was justly proud of this, and we all remember how he was accustomed in our social gatherings (of which he was a leading spirit) to tell us that no one could point to a delinquency of his. Ever gentle and tender to a brother in trouble, with his strong arms and broad shoulders he was always ready to lift others out of the difficulties into which they had fallen, and to shield and protect them by the weight of his name and character. During so long a career of daily intercourse with families afflicted whether by sickness or domestic trouble, there is no possibility of estimating the good that such a man has done in his day and generation—the timely aid he has given to his brother practitioners, the cares he has removed, the sufferings he has assuaged, the hopes he has imparted ; substituting relief, comfort, health and happiness.

We must be pardoned on this occasion only for one word personal to ourselves. We cannot refrain from stating that it was our good fortune to succeed him in the Chair of Clinical Medicine in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina. We could scarcely hope even to imitate so great a teacher, yet the honour of occupying the same position—in which he lead *longo intervallo*—was an exceeding high one. But we must not occupy too much of the attention of this Society, where others may desire to offer their meed of praise to our deceased brother.

The following remarks were then made by

DR. J. S. BUIST.

Mr. President: I hope I may be allowed the privilege of trespassing upon your time to pay my brief and humble tribute to the memory of one who, from my childhood and upwards, I have always been taught to revere and respect as a father in the profession, and a Nestor among his peers. Situated as I am so far in years from the active period in the brilliant career of the late Dr. Geddings, it would ill become me to enter into any eulogy as to his distinguished life and character. This has already been done by those far more able and familiar with his life and times; but intimately associated as I have been with him in the last decade, the strong and sterling traits of character, combined with great genius and attainment, as exhibited then, only convinced me

that he was ever worthy of the distinguished reputation he enjoyed, and that made him not only an ornament in his profession, but the pride of the community in which he lived. Combined with great learning, as we are all well aware, there was eminently that practical turn of mind which made him grasp the situation as it was, and improve every opportunity that presented itself without selfish motive, and to the general good of his fellow citizens.

When from the chaos and wreck of the late war we all returned to our homes anxious to lay the foundations of our new medical careers, none felt more deeply than he the altered and changed relations existing in the charitable distributions of our calling; none lent more cheerfully and cordially his best energies and matured wisdom and judgment to the remedying of the existing evils, and as soon as time and opportunity presented, he laid the foundations through his influence of the development of our public charities, which will always stand as a monument to his interest in the cause of medical education and the relief of suffering humanity. We may safely say that it was to his great efforts and controlling influence that our community is indebted for the large and commodious institutions which daily contribute to the relief of hundreds of the poor and destitute.

With no selfish aims or purposes to serve, with malice toward none and charity to all, his highest ambition seemed to advance the standard of his profession, and benefit mankind in his day and generation. Always willing and ready to respond to the

calls of charity, he took particular delight in the exercise of those high gifts with which nature had endowed him, and none shone more brightly when in contact with such distress and suffering.

It has been said that—

“The evils that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

But this was Pagan philosophy, unenlightened by the benignant reign of Christian charity and civilization.

If from any act of Dr. Geddings evil may have resulted, that evil will soon be forgotten, merged as it has been in the noble life of usefulness he spent, and the brilliant example he has left us.

The speaking was then closed by the following remarks from

DR. W. T. WRAGG.

Mr. President: I desire to say a few words on this occasion, so full of interest to all of us who are members of this Society, but most especially to those who, like myself, are fast passing to the “bourne from which no traveller returns.”

My recollections of Prof. Geddings go back to the time when, as a youth, I first became acquainted with the movement set on foot for establishing the Medical College of South Carolina. In 1824 the efforts, sustained under the greatest difficulties, for founding a Medical College were brought to a successful ter-

mination. Moultrie, Holbrook, Dickson, Ramsay, Prioleau, Frost, and Ravenel, all young in years, and all unknown to fame, having raised money for the erection of a fine building, by pledging all that they had, and, I may well add, all they hoped to acquire, stood up, in their new and untried places, and by the force of self-reliance, launched into mature existence an institution destined to make their names known through all this wide land.

Then and there, as the first fruits of their labours, appeared for the first time, in our view, young Geddings emerging from the teachings of these youthful masters, with a promise of eminence and usefulness, which, though at first only recognized by his teachers, was soon discovered by others, and in rapid progress to greater maturity, he attained a place which fixed him in the admiration of all—a place which he continued to occupy and adorn for more than fifty years.

These men are now all gone, and all that remains of them is the memorial they have left of themselves in the institution which they founded and sustained so well. Geddings in time had become one of them, and, like *them*, *he* has left his name engraven on that monument. The history of the Medical College of South Carolina cannot be written without the name of Geddings.

This is not the time, nor is this the place, to enter on a biography of Dr. Geddings. What has been so well said already will doubtless be supplemented by fuller details of a life so fruitful in lessons for the aspirants to professional usefulness. But I may, in

a few words, touch upon one or two of the traits of character which distinguished our deceased colleague and marked him as one of rare mental and social endowments.

The first of his excellencies to which I will refer was his wonderful memory. To read, with Geddings, was to memorize, and to memorize was to engrave upon the brain marks which were never to be obliterated—“*cere perennius.*” With such an endowment reading was not only a pleasure, (as it is to most cultivated minds,) but a profit. It was garnering up, by the easiest and pleasantest of all processes, stores which ordinary minds acquire only by long, patient, and irksome toil. What Geddings learned he never forgot. And, best of all, these abundant stores were so admirably arranged that all and every article was as readily at his command as if they had been recorded only the day before. But these admirable and enticing qualities of mind, while supplying him with an endless source of personal gratification, tended, perhaps, to detract from his social excellencies. Accordingly we find that he rather shunned than courted society. Thus it was that he was not often seen at the meetings of the “Club,” which, in its day, gathered the elite of the community at its stated evening meetings. I well remember at one of these meetings, where Geddings’s absence was commented on, hearing Dickson say that it was a source of great regret that one so admirably calculated to bring instruction as well as pleasure with him should so shade his radiant light from the eyes of admiring and appreciating friends.

But if Geddings was backward in contributing from his fund of information on formal occasions like those to which I have alluded, such was not the case in his personal intercourse. I knew no man in all my life-long intercourse whose conversation and information was more at the command of his friends. A casual meeting at a book store or at a street corner would furnish an occasion for drawing him into conversations overflowing with information and amusement. There was an arch smile around the mouth and a gay twinkle in his eye that showed how much his heart and soul were in the words that fell from his lips.

It was my good fortune to coincide with Professor Geddings on many points closely connected with the hygienic requirements of our city, and with the equally important but still more abstruse questions of epidemic and endemic influence, and our conversations on these matters invariably left upon my memory impressions of real practical value.

There is but one other characteristic to which I will allude before closing these hurried remarks. It is this: In no place or time could the young men of our profession find a kinder or more sympathizing friend, one more ready to extend the helping hand or say the encouraging word. Geddings was the friend of the young; and, while he sat upon the topmost round of professional fame, his arm could reach and help the humblest beginner. Honour to his name. May the peace of God rest upon him.

At the conclusion of Dr. Wragg's remarks the resolutions were voted upon and were adopted unanimously, and Dr. Parker appointed Drs. Robertson, T. L. Ogier and J. P. Chazal on the committee, in accordance with the provisions of the fourth resolution.

Dr. Carrere then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That, with the consent of the President and Members of the Medical Society, a portrait of the late Professor Eli Geddings, M. D., be painted, and that the same be placed in the hall of the Society, and that the members of the said Society be allowed the privilege of contributing towards defraying the expenses incidental to the carrying out this resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

